

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF INTENT TO TERMINATE CERTAIN PROPOSED PUBLIC EASEMENTS ACROSS LANDS CONVEYED TO THE KING COVE CORPORATION, LOCATED WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF IZEMBEK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE AND ALASKA PENINSULA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, ALASKA

Pursuant to Departmental regulations 43 CFR 2650.4-7(a) (13) and 43 CFR 2650.7, notice is hereby given that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has requested that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) terminate certain proposed public site and trail easements reserved under Section 17(b) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) in a land conveyance to the King Cove Corporation. The Service is the Federal agency with administrative responsibility for management of these public easements. The easements are solely for the purpose of allowing the public to cross Native land. Activities such as fishing and hunting from the easements are not allowed.

The basis for terminating the proposed public easements reserved under Section 17 (b) of ANCSA is that the easements are unusable in the present locations and alternative easements have been offered by the King Cove Corporation. Relocating easements is often necessary because in some cases, easements were established by drawing them on maps with little or no knowledge of the actual terrain and as a result, many trail easements are located in topographically unsuitable locations.

The following proposed easements are being considered for termination:

Lenard Harbor (current location)

1. A proposed 1-acre site easement (EIN 14 C5) at the head of Lenard Harbor.
2. A proposed 25-foot wide trail (EIN 15 C5) that connects the site easement at the head of Lenard Harbor to the King Cove airport road.

These easements are among easements listed in Patent No. 50-93-0594 issued September 27, 1993 to King Cove Corporation.

These proposed easements located at the head of Lenard Harbor will be **relocated** to lands donated by the King Cove Corp, which are to the west approximately 1 mile and is an area with deeper water, allowing boats easier access to the site easement. The 25 foot wide trail will be about ¼ mile long and will connect the site with the new King Cove road that connects the village of King Cove to the new hovercraft landing area. The relocated site easement will be designated as EIN 25 C6 and will be located on the north shore of Lenard Harbor in the NE1/4 of Section 31, T58S, R86W, Seward Meridian; Latitude 55.116650° North, longitude 162.381241° West, NAD83. The relocated trail easement will be designated as EIN 26 C6, will begin at the site easement and continue northerly through Section 31, T58S, R86W, Seward Meridian to the new King Cove access road.

East of Cold Bay (current location)

3. A proposed 1-acre site easement (EIN 9 C4) on the east shore of Cold Bay, directly east of the town of Cold Bay.
4. A proposed 25-foot wide trail (EIN 9a C4) that starts at site easement EIN 9C4 and travels northeast to the boundary of King Cove land.

These easements are among easements listed in Patent No. 50-90-0653 issued September 26, 1990 to King Cove Corporation.

These proposed easements located to the east of Cold Bay are currently in an area that has steep terrain and thick alder growth *thickets*. The proposed easements will be **relocated** to lands donated by the King Cove Corp, to the north approximately 1.5 miles, where the terrain is nearly flat and free of dense vegetation and which offers easier access to public land. The relocated site easement will be designated as EIN 23 C6 and will be located on the east shore of Cold Bay in the NE1/4 of the NE1/4 of Section 29, T57S, R87W, Seward Meridian; Latitude 55.220122° North, longitude 162.504972° West, NAD83. The relocated trail easement will be designated as EIN 24 C6 and will be located at the beginning of the site easement and continue northeast through Sections 20, 21, and 29 of T57S, R87W, Seward Meridian to the eastern boundary of Section 21 and public land.

The site easements will allow the standard regulatory uses such as parking, loading, and unloading for boats, as well as foot traffic, dog sleds, bicycles, and other non-motorized means of travel. The only significant change in uses will occur on the trail from the shore of Cold Bay east to refuge land. Currently, motorized vehicles up to 3,000 pounds GVW are allowed. The new location for this trail will be designated as non-motorized along its entire length.

The Service has no current plans to actually construct the sites and trails. However, Carsonite marker posts may be installed to mark the location of the site easements and the ends of the trails. The new locations of the proposed easements have been plotted on a map, using GPS coordinates. The map and the GPS coordinates will be available to the public through the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge, from the Regional Office in Anchorage, the King Cove Corporation and via the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website <http://alaska.fws.gov/nwr/izembek/kcease.htm>.

This Public Notice will serve notice of the BLM's intent to issue an appealable decision to terminate the proposed easements. The BLM decision will be issued after a 30-day comment period following this Public Notice.

All comments concerning this action are to be addressed to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Realty, MS-211, 1011 E. Tudor Road, Anchorage, AK 99503, (907) 786-3566.